

Serial No. 09/759,184

REMARKS

Thorough examination of the application is sincerely appreciated.

In the Final Office Action, claims 1, 2, 9 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent 6,148,135 (Suzuki). Claim 8 was rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious over Suzuki in view of U.S. Patent 5,913,031 (Blanchard).

Further to the Final Office Action, it was stated that claims 3, 4, 7 and 13-22 were allowed.

Still further to the Final Office Action, claims 5 and 6 were indicated to contain allowable subject matter.

To expedite the prosecution of the application and without conceding any statements or waiving any arguments in the Final Office Action, Applicant's claims are amended as follows:

Claims 1, 2, 5, 6 and 8-10 are canceled without prejudice.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that the present application is in condition for allowance, and an early notice thereof is earnestly solicited. However, if for any reason this application is not considered to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

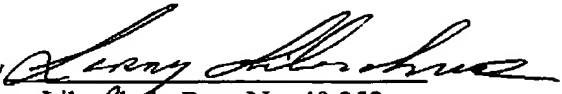
Entry of this amendment is respectfully requested. It is believed that this amendment places the application in condition for allowance and, therefore, its entry is warranted per MPEP 706.07(e).

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Please charge any additional fees associated with this application to Deposit Account No.
14-1270.

Respectfully submitted,

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